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THE SOCIETY AND THE STATE

During the three months' period ending July 10, 1922, there were nine additions to the membership roll of the State Historical Society. One of these enrolled as a life member, Albert O. Trostel of Milwaukee.

Eight persons became annual members, as follows: Frank K. Bissell, Marshfield; Ernest Bruncken, Milwaukee; Robert Dessureau, Antigo; Dr. Alexander Dienst, Temple, Tex.; Manly J. Hemmens, Columbus, O.; Norman A. Knudson, Manitowoc; Richard B. Thiel, Algoma; Leonard A. Waehler, Lomira.

With this number this magazine enters upon the sixth year of its publication; it is believed it has succeeded in its object of drawing the Society's members more closely together and of keeping them informed of the various historical activities of the state, as well as of furnishing a medium for the publication of articles of value and interest to the people of Wisconsin. With this number also there begins a change in the editorship of the magazine. Dr. Milo M. Quaife, who was its originator and has had constant supervision of its interests, first as superintendent of the Society, then as editor of its publications, severed his connection with the Society the first of May. The success of the magazine has been due, in large part, to his unflagging zeal and broad ideals. The editorial chair will henceforth be occupied by the Society's superintendent, aided by the research associates and other members of the staff. It is planned to devote a portion of each number to some particular locality in the state; this number features the early days of Platteville.

Since the beginning of the year 1922 three of the Society's curators have died, of whom Judge Siebecker and the Hon. John Luchsinger were on the roll of the vice-presidents. The following brief sketches of their careers are presented in place of more extended biographies or obituaries.

Chief Justice Robert George Siebecker died at his home in Madison on the eleventh of February, 1922, aged sixty-seven years, three months, and twenty-five days. Judge Siebecker was a native of the town of Sumter, Sauk County, where his parents, who were immigrants from Germany, had settled three years before his birth, which occurred October 17, 1854. At eighteen he entered a private academy in Madison and afterwards completed a course in the University of Wisconsin before matriculating in the law school, from which he was graduated in 1880. He rose by successive steps from a trusted position as practising attorney (partner of Robert M. La Follette) to city attorney of Madison, to the judgeship of the ninth judicial circuit, and to the supreme bench, where his long, honorable, and distinguished service won for him the universal esteem of bench and bar throughout America. The career of Justice Siebecker had in it elements of great value to industrious and aspiring young men. It is to be hoped that an adequate biography of this honored jurist may some day be published for the benefit of Wisconsin

youth. He had been for many years a member of the Historical Society; he attended its meetings, participated in its councils, and as curator in recent years helped to shape its policies. The loss to the commonwealth in the untimely passing of such a man is a cause of poignant regret.

Hon. John Luchsinger passed away at his home in Monroe April 23, 1922, aged eighty-two years, nine months, and twenty-four days. Mr. Luchsinger migrated with his parents from Canton Glarus, Switzerland, at the age of seven and after spending ten years in Philadelphia, where he enjoyed the advantages of the Jefferson School, removed with his parents to New Glarus, Green County, Wisconsin, settling among the Swiss colony from the old home. Mr. Luchsinger became a leader in that colony, in the county, and in the state. He was farmer, legislator, lawyer, judge, and banker, as well as always a kind neighbor, a generous friend, and a wise counsellor both to his Swiss countrymen and to all others. He was deeply interested in the work of the Historical Society, writing for its *Collections* an authentic history of the Swiss colony of New Glarus, also a history of the cheese industry as carried on in New Glarus. Both papers have been widely distributed. No service which he was able to render the Society was ever withheld, and only a few weeks prior to his death he brought to the library documentary material needed in connection with our publications. In his removal the Society loses a dependable curator and officer, his community a chief benefactor, and the state an exemplar of the noblest citizenship.

June sixth last, Col. Jerome A. Watrous, curator of this Society since 1918, died at his Milwaukee home. Although born in New York State in 1840, Colonel Watrous was essentially a Wisconsin man, coming here in 1844 with his pioneering father and growing up in Calumet County. He was educated at Lawrence College and continued his education in the printer's trade and the editorial chair, serving on the Appleton *Crescent* during college days, and after the Civil War on the *Jackson County Banner*, the *Fond du Lac Commonwealth*, and the *Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph*. Young Watrous responded in 1861 to the call to arms; enlisting as a private in the Sixth Wisconsin, he obtained by his merits a commission and at the close of the war was brevetted captain for gallant conduct. During his editorial career he kept in close touch with the militia, serving on the staffs of Governor Fairchild and Governor Rusk. Promptly on the opening of the Spanish War he volunteered, was made paymaster and lieutenant colonel in the regular army. Thence he retired in 1904, after service in the West Indies and the Philippines. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, serving for both as commander of the Wisconsin department. In 1885 he was state pension agent and in 1889 collector of customs at Milwaukee. In May, 1919, he was appointed commandant of the Wisconsin Veterans' Home, resigning in October, 1920. Although his term as curator of our Society was brief, he evinced much interest in our work and furnished freely his reminiscences of early days in Wisconsin.

The centenary of the birth of General Grant has revived many memories of his visits to Wisconsin. The southwestern part of the state recalls his frequent itineraries therein during his undistinguished pre-Civil War days in Galena. Grant came to Milwaukee in 1880 in the full flower of his prestige as general, president, and world traveler, to attend a reunion of Wisconsin's Civil War veterans. His escort was Milwaukee's Light Horse Squadron, first organized for this occasion. Grant was a guest at the home of a grandson of Alexander Hamilton, Charles H. Hamilton, who had been the General's classmate at West Point and had served with him in his campaigns on the Mississippi.

The Society was recently honored by a visit from Mrs. Lucy Preston Beale of Virginia, the great-granddaughter of Col. William Preston, whose papers constitute a portion of the Draper Manuscripts and who was himself an outstanding figure in the Western Movement. Colonel Preston came to America as a boy with his uncle Col. James Patton, who was in 1755, when on a journey examining western lands, murdered by Indians. Mrs. Beale had family recollections of this outstanding event in border history, which she related for the Society's benefit and which add to the vividness of this bit of frontier life. She also gave an interesting account of how Smithfield, the ancestral home of the Prestons, acquired its name through the bravery of its first mistress, Mrs. William Preston, née Susannah Smith. Among a host of historical stories we also chose to record from Mrs. Beale's description a vivid incident of the presidential campaign of 1848, in which her father, Gov. James Patton Preston, had a prominent part. Mrs. Beale expressed herself as greatly pleased at the interest taken by Wisconsin in the Preston papers, and her belief that but for our Society's careful preservation these papers would now be irretrievably lost.

THE ALFRED KITTREDGE HAMILTON PAPERS

Alfred K. Hamilton was one of Wisconsin's progressive business men, who began his career in our state during the Civil War and died at the close of the World War. He was born October 31, 1840, at Lynn, New Hampshire, entered Dartmouth College in 1859, and two years later became a West Point cadet, where after two years' study he ranked second in his class. For his standing at West Point he was granted his degree at Dartmouth with the class of 1863. An unfortunate accident at artillery drill cut short his military career, when young Hamilton, having already had experience in a sawmill in his native place, emigrated to Wisconsin and engaged in the lumber business at Fond du Lac. At first the firm name was Hamilton and Finley; later the senior partner operated alone, doing business on the Wolf River and around Winnebago Lake. In 1883 Mr. Hamilton removed to Milwaukee, where he had large business interests; he managed the Milwaukee Harvester Company and developed a lime and stone business at a place in Fond du Lac County to which was given his name. Mr. Hamilton was president of the Webster City and Southwestern Railway Company, director in many enterprises, and trustee from

1899 to 1918 of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. He died December 20, 1918, in California. His daughter Mrs. Charles J. McIntosh of Milwaukee has presented his papers to our Society under the auspices of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin, of which she is state president.

The collection is not large, but it illustrates the methods of conducting the lumber business, with contracts for logs, scaling of rafts, inventories of lumber camps, price schedules, and so forth. Among these papers there are also a number of interesting letters from Gen. E. S. Bragg, Col. William F. Vilas, Sen. John L. Mitchell, and others prominent in the political field.

THE DIEDERICH'S DIARY

Hon. Emil Baensch of Manitowoc has translated for our Society the contents of a small printed book of fifty-eight pages published in 1848 at Barmen. It contains the letters and journal of Johann F. Diederichs, who emigrated in 1847 from Elberfeld to America, and bought land near Manitowoc Rapids. The account is a vivid picture of the experiences of a German forty-four years old, who came with wife and four children to found a home in Wisconsin. Especially interesting are his descriptions of the life of the first year on the new farm, the building of the log house, the clearing of the land, the obtaining of stock. We hope in the future to publish portions of this translation.

THE SCHLAICH PAPERS

Capt. Julius Schlaich was born at Grossheppach, Wurtemberg, September 13, 1830; at the age of twenty-one he emigrated to Wisconsin and settled at Plymouth, where he became a prominent member of the community and in 1861 was appointed postmaster. He soon resigned, however, to recruit for Company B, Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry, of which in September, 1862, he was commissioned second lieutenant. Eighteen months later Lieutenant Schlaich became captain of his company, and in November, 1864, was brevetted major for "meritorious service." After the Civil War Captain Schlaich resided in New York City until 1870, when he returned to Plymouth and there died March 11, 1919. His widow, Mrs. Augusta Schlaich, has on the instance of Curator Lacher presented to the Society a few papers; while former Mayor Charles Pfeiffer has donated the minute book for 1898 of the Plymouth Farmer und Gewerbe Verein, of which Captain Schlaich was a prominent member. A sketch of his career prepared by Mr. Lacher accompanies these gifts.

CHICAGO RELIC SOUGHT IN WISCONSIN

Chicago's first fire-fighting machine was bought in 1835 from Gurdon S. Hubbard, pioneer fur trader and early citizen of that place. The volunteer company by which it was operated called it "Fire King No. 1." It is a small affair mounted on wheels and equipped with two

brass single-action pumps. After doing valiant service for twenty-five years in the Windy City the still effective "Fire King" was sold in 1860 to the city of Stevens Point, where again it was actively employed in fire fighting for another quarter of a century. At its superannuation it was sold to a private party who used it for drainage work and finally stored the old veteran in a shed at Bancroft. There it was recently found by an agent of the Chicago Historical Society, who purchased the historic relic and had it transferred to its earliest home and installed in state in the historical society's rooms.

FRIENDS OF OUR NATIVE LANDSCAPE

The Illinois society of this name was organized in 1913 by Mr. Jens Jensen, landscape architect of Chicago. In 1920 the Wisconsin chapter came into being and in June of that year the first joint meeting was held at Devils Lake Park. The next June the Illinois association entertained at the canyons of Apple River, on the boundary of the two states. This year the joint meeting was held June 3 and 4 at Holy Hill, in Washington County, Wisconsin. About eighty Illinoisians were present; the numbers from Wisconsin have not been estimated but large delegations came from Milwaukee and Madison, including several of the professors in the College of Agriculture and the other departments of the State University. Members were also present from Fort Atkinson, Oshkosh, Baraboo, Fond du Lac, and other places. The society is devoted to the preservation and enjoyment of the beauties of nature and to the instruction of the public in the scientific, archeological, and historical features of our local environment. It aims to have an influence on the acquisition of state and local parks, upon the increasing delight in the life of the out-of-doors. The last meeting was especially enjoyable and developed a spirit of comradeship and appreciation that augurs well for the future of the society. John S. Donald was reelected president of the Wisconsin society, and Prof. F. A. Aust secretary.

LAKE GENEVA PAGEANT

An elaborate pageant of Wisconsin and local history was presented on the lovely shores of Lake Geneva May 29, and may in itself be considered an historic event. Historical education was afforded to the large number of participants, and the whole community was imbued with a sentiment of affection and reverence for the past. The author was Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker of Chicago, who four years ago collaborated in the centennial pageants of the Illinois celebration. It was somewhat unfortunate that the exploded theory of Mound Builders as a separate race from the Indians was presented. The Indian scenes, especially the wedding feast and the dances, were particularly successful. Realistic were the Indian treaty and the struggle for land by conflicting claimants. A daughter of one of these claimants was in the audience. Wisconsin's admission to the union was dramatically rendered by the personification of the states and their warm welcome to the new sister. Lake Geneva will hereafter be alert to the significance and interest of her history.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

Seventy-five years ago last twenty-sixth of April, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized at Chicago for the entire Northwest. The diamond jubilee of this founding was celebrated widely throughout Wisconsin, where many affiliated churches of this synod now exist. Beginning in 1847 with twelve churches, it now numbers 4,300 pulpits, foreign missions of large proportions, and is one of the largest synodical bodies in America. President Harding sent congratulations to the officials, which were read at the several celebrations.

During the first week of June the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of St. John's Episcopal Church on the south side of Milwaukee was observed; the church building, now seventy years of age, was consecrated by Bishop Kemper.

Sunday, June 12, the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Millersville, Sheboygan County, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, with appropriate exercises. One of its founders, Johannes Dengel, is still living in the vicinity and was present at the services.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milwaukee held a three-days' celebration of its sixtieth birthday last May. This church has occupied three buildings, its present one being at Fourth and Lee streets.

Oregon Methodist Episcopal Church was built by the grandfather of Dr. Philip Fox of that place, who was the first circuit rider in this vicinity. The church building, begun in 1861, was completed the next May. Last May the sixtieth anniversary of its dedication was celebrated by local members and Madison friends.

A jubilee observance on June 6 for St. John's Catholic Church near Hilbert brought out a notable assemblage of clergy, among them Rt. Rev. P. P. Rhode, bishop of Green Bay.

In March the Shawano Presbyterian Church held an historical review of the fifty years' existence of the organization. Dr. Ganfield of Carroll College was the chief speaker.

THE DRAMA OF RED BIRD

The Curtain Club, sponsored by the University faculty, presented at Madison, April 27, an historical play written by William Ellery Leonard, one of their number. Professor Leonard, who is a student of Indian lore, has already written and published *Glory of the Morning*, one of the best and most typical pieces of literature having the North American Indian for a theme. He had for some years been considering the tragedy of the Winnebago chief Red Bird, whose surrender to the army officers in 1827 has been called the most dramatic event in Wisconsin history. Using this event as a basis, Professor Leonard has produced a powerful drama, whose central theme is the conflicting ethical ideals of the two races red and white, and the inevitable tragedy that such diversity implies. Red Bird, the hero of the play, having heard that the whites had murdered one of his own tribe, felt morally bound to

avenge that death by the double massacre of two innocent white persons; then when American soldiers advanced against his tribe and threatened it with annihilation, he was impelled by his conscience to offer his own life in atonement for the salvation of his people. In prison he learns that his sacrifice has all been vain, that his supposedly murdered comrade still lives; he dies just as the president's pardon arrives to set him free.

The presentation of the character of Red Bird as conceived by Professor Leonard affords almost unlimited scope to any actor; the student who played the part acted it with conscientiousness and dignity. The lesser parts were finely conceived and the entire drama was presented with an earnestness that its quality warranted. The scenery was especially prepared for the occasion by the University department of manual arts, and showed typical Wisconsin landscapes at the Dells, Devils Lake, and Prairie du Chien. The audience recognized both the literary quality of the drama and its historic significance, representing an outstanding event in our pre-territorial history, as well as the innate nobility of our Indian predecessors.

COLLEGE CELEBRATIONS

Beloit and Lawrence colleges both celebrated in June their diamond jubilees, or the seventy-fifth anniversaries of their founding. Thus two of the best known of our Wisconsin colleges were begun a year before the admission of the state to the union. Throughout all the state's history, therefore, these two institutions of higher education, one in the southern and the other in the northeastern portion of Wisconsin, have been quietly but powerfully at work developing the finer manhood and womanhood of our commonwealth. The celebrations were reminiscent and historical in character, and brought back to Beloit and Appleton large bodies of loyal alumni. Pageantry was employed at both colleges to vivify the historical scenes of the institutions' beginnings; while historical addresses and personal reminiscences recalled early days. In subsequent numbers of this magazine, articles will appear on the origins of these two colleges and their place in Wisconsin educational history.

MUSEUM NOTES

The curator of the State Historical Museum, Mr. Charles E. Brown, is at all times glad to receive gifts of Indian stone, clay, bone, horn, shell, and metal implements, ornaments and ceremonial objects from original finders and collectors in every part of the state.

The work of preserving and marking Indian mound groups and other aboriginal landmarks and sites is progressing very favorably under the direction of the Indian Landmarks Committee of the State Historical Society, of which Mr. David Atwood is chairman. An additional impetus was given to this movement when a suggestion was made by the secretary of the Wisconsin Archeological Society that the

Fraternal Order of Eagles should undertake the care and marking of the effigy mounds of eagles and thunderbirds, scattered so widely over the state. This suggestion was received with enthusiasm at the order's annual state convention at Madison, June 5-8. It is hoped that under the auspices of this organization many such mounds may be conserved.

Beloit College has purchased for the Logan Museum the extensive archeological collection of Mr. Theodore Kumlien of Fort Atkinson. This collection consists chiefly of Indian stone and metal implements collected by its former owner in the Lake Koshkonong region.

The University of Wisconsin, through the State Historical Museum, has published for distribution to those teachers attending the summer session who are interested in American folklore, a leaflet of Paul Bunyan tales. Paul is the mythical hero of the lumberjacks, and tales of his great strength and wonderful exploits are told in the lumber camps from Maine to Wisconsin and westward to Washington and California.

A report on the Indian history and antiquities of Beaver Dam Lake, recently issued by the Wisconsin Archeological Society, shows the total number of Indian mounds formerly located about Beaver Dam to have been about fifty. Of thirty-two of these mounds, whose exact character is known, twenty-one were conical or round mounds, eight were effigy or animal-shaped mounds, and three were linear or wall-shaped earthworks. Of the effigies five were of the common panther (water spirit) type, two represented the turtle, and one was an unidentified quadruped. Beaver Dam is one of the localities in the state which up to the present date has failed to preserve for the public any of its notable Indian earthworks. Many have been destroyed, some of them needlessly. It is hoped that some local organization or the city itself will, before it shall be too late, undertake to preserve some of the few priceless prehistoric Indian monuments which remain.

Jefferson County, through its county board and rural planning committee, has purchased and placed in the care of the Wisconsin Archeological Society a tract of land at Aztalan, near Lake Mills, containing a group of nine large ceremonial and mortuary Indian mounds. This land is to be maintained by the state society as a free public park. Various improvements for the park are now being planned by a committee of the society consisting of Mr. Robert P. Ferry, Lake Mills; Dr. S. A. Barrett, Milwaukee; Mrs. H. A. Main, Fort Atkinson; and Messrs. David Atwood, John G. D. Mack, and Charles E. Brown, Madison. The earliest report of the site of this stockaded prehistoric village was published by N. F. Hyer in the *Milwaukee Advertiser* in 1837. A movement to secure the permanent preservation of the enclosure was conducted by the State Historical Society and the Wisconsin Archeological Society in 1919, through a joint committee of which the late Publius V. Lawson of Menasha was the chairman. A part of the money for the purchase of the row of mounds was contributed by the

school children of Jefferson County. Funds for the acquirement of the remainder of the site including the enclosure are now being raised by the Wisconsin chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a campaign in which the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs will also participate.

The Winnebago County Archeological and Historical Society held its annual pilgrimage at historic Black Wolf Point on the shore of Lake Winnebago, on the afternoon of June 24.

This was the site of an early Indian village, and a portion of the afternoon was spent in searching for and examining evidences of its former occupation. A large Indian boulder corn-mill having several depressions on its surface was of special interest. Mr. Halvor L. Skavlem of Janesville was the speaker of the occasion. He gave an interesting talk on the Indian antiquities of Lake Koshkonong, which he illustrated with a chart of numerous drawings. Basket lunches were partaken of and coffee made on the grounds was served to all present. The weather was perfect and the attendance was good, forty-one members being present.

The Wisconsin Archeological Society held its last regular indoor meeting at Milwaukee on May 15, and will not resume these meetings until the third Monday in October. Some of its members are now conducting archeological surveys and explorations in a number of Wisconsin counties. Mr. H. E. Cole has completed a surface survey of the Indian earthworks and other remains in the western half of Sauk County. Mr. Towne L. Miller is conducting researches in the Grand River region and elsewhere in the southern part of Green Lake County, and Rev. F. S. Dayton in Waupaca County. Dr. A. Gerend has been assisting in Jackson, Rev. J. H. McManus in Richland, and others in other counties. Mr. C. E. Brown recently spent several days in research work about Forest, Moose, Garvin, Grass, and other of the smaller lakes in Waukesha County. The society has published reports on the Indian landmarks about Fox Lake, in Dodge County, and about Beaver Dam Lake. A report on the "Stoneworks and Garden Beds in Winnebago County," by George R. Fox, is in press.

The Central Section of the American Anthropological Association was organized at a meeting held in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, on April 21, archeologists and ethnologists from eight Middle West states being in attendance. Dr. S. A. Barrett of Milwaukee was elected president of the section; Charles E. Brown, Madison, and Dr. W. C. Mills, Columbus, vice-presidents; and Mr. Ralph Linton, Chicago, secretary-treasurer. Dr. Berthold Laufer, Dr. Frederick Starr, George R. Fox, Prof. Louis B. Wolfenson, and Alanson Skinner were chosen as members of the board of directors. During the meeting visits were made to the Chicago Historical Society and the Chicago Academy of Sciences Museum.